

Sunday School Lesson for the Month of August 2012

The Unfinished Business of the Church

(John 17:4,18)

(Sunday, August 5, 2012)

To have been assigned some important work to do, some significant task to perform, or some critical business to transact, and to have completed the assignment against all odds is to experience a deep sense of satisfaction and joy. This was probably the experience of Jesus when, in his prayer as recorded in John 17, He said, "I have finished the work which thou gave me to do." And again when He said from the cross, "It is finished." He had called and trained His disciples; He had preached the gospel of the Kingdom; He had revealed the nature of God and God's love for man; and He had shown man what is good and what God requires of Him. He had pointed the way out of social chaos and spiritual decay; and now He could say to His Father, "I have finished the work which thou gave me to do." God had given Him work to do and He in turn gave us work to do when He said, "as the Father hath sent me; send I also you," go ye, therefore, into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." He finished His work in about three years; it has been over two thousand years and our work is not finished. It is getting very late and it is time we were about our Father's business.

The church has no new business, it has only old business; we may have new insights, new techniques and procedures, but it is the same old business that we are trying to do.

(Sunday, August 12, 2012)

1. Man, himself is Unfinished.

Man was made in the image and likeness of God; but the image has become tarnished and the likeness blurred by sin and selfishness. We then have the account of the fall of man; but man does not fall only once, he is always stumbling and falling. Whenever he know what is good and best in any situation and fails to live up to it, he fails; he is not true to his better self, and something within him dies. Therefore, men are falling everyday. The songwriter says, “Please, be patient with me, God is not through with me yet.” I am an unfinished product.

2. Since man is unfinished, the business of Christian education is far from finished.

Paul says to Timothy, “study!” Jesus says to the church, “Teach them to observe.” This is the pressing unfinished business of the church.

3. Human Relations is Unfinished.

The most basic; the most crucial problem of our day is the problem of human relations. We have been brought together by science and technology, but we have not learned to live together as brothers and sisters. Our scientific achievement has far surpassed our social and moral development. The situations among the nations are terrifying. Everywhere we look we behold the seeds of world destruction: in Latin America; the Middle East, Europe, Asia and even here at home. The super powers trying to develop more efficient ways of destroying each other.

Well the church has a job! “Unless we repent, we perish, I see no way out of this world misery except doing the Lord’s will.

(Sunday, August 19, 2012)

If the church is to meet the critical challenge of these times, there are certain things the church must do:

A. It must take seriously its historical responsibility.

Jesus says, “ye are the salt of the earth,” “ye are the light of the world.” He was making us aware of our responsibility to save the world. “If you lose your salt, the world has no other home; if you hide your light, the world will remain in darkness.”

(Sunday, August 26, 2012)

B. The church must recover its lost power.

We need the power of the early church. The church has the message, but it lacks the power. It speaks, but no one listens. There’s only one way to regain that power....We must humble ourselves before God.

C. The church must put its own house in order.

“Judgment begins at the house of the Lord.” “If my people” – a divided church cannot speak with one voice to the united forces of evil. The church must speak with moral authority in every area of human life. We have the authority but for some reason we don’t use it. God has given us the authority. We must speak out against sin.

We have unfinished business on our agendas!!!!